

U.S. Officials Only
SECRETCENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORTCOUNTRY Czechoslovakia
SUBJECT Investigation of Czechoslovak Leaders

25X1

DATE DISTR. / 5 Feb 1954 25X1

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS REPORT IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. On 26 Dec 53, P. N. Pospelov, member of the secretariat of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party and A. B. Aristov, chairman of the security department of the Central Committee, arrived in Prague to continue the investigation of Czechoslovak Communist leaders begun in Oct 1953 by N. I. Semenov, secretary of Embassy in Prague. They were under the orders of K. F. Lunev, Soviet First Deputy Minister of the Interior.
2. This investigation was touched off by the capture of Col. Jan Bojko at Cesky Krumlov in South Bohemia on 19 Dec 53. Bojko was a close collaborator of Gen. Bedřich Reicin, executed during the purge of the Slánský group. Bojko, a Slovak, generally believed dead, had actually been concealed by Slánský's followers and was detected trying to reach Austria on the way to Yugoslavia with important documents.
3. His capture revealed a conspiracy involving the highest circles of Communist leadership and increased Soviet suspicion with regard to Czechoslovak unwillingness to purge unreliable elements. Soviet authorities have placed the responsibility on Dr. Štefan Reiss, former Minister of Justice, a Hungarian Jew by birth, but considered a Slovak. He is a protégé of President Zápotocký.
4. With a view to avoiding further inquiries the Czechoslovak government decided on 22 Dec 53 to place on trial Gustav Husák and Laco Novomeský, former Slovak ministers and friends of Dr. Vlado Clementis, who have been in prison since 1951. Due to the political tension in Slovakia the Prague Government has long hesitated to place the two men on trial. This hesitation has been adroitly exploited by Karol Bacílek, a Slovak, who was ousted from the government on 15 Sep 53. Now secretary general of the Slovak Communist Party, Bacílek is struggling for reintegration.

U.S. Officials Only
SECRET

25X1

DISTRIBUTION	STATE	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	FBI				
--------------	-------	------	------	-----	-----	--	--	--	--

This report is for the use within the USA of the Intelligence components of the Departments or Agencies indicated above. It is not to be transmitted overseas without the concurrence of the originating office through the Assistant Director of the Office of Collection and Dissemination, CIA.

SECRET

25X1

-2-

in the government at the expense of Viliam Široký, himself a Slovak.

5. Bacílek denounced the slowness of the government in bringing Husák and Novomeský to trial to J. B. Beryezin, Soviet Consul General in Bratislava, and Beryezin initiated the Oct investigation of Czechoslovak leaders.
6. The Kremlin is profoundly dissatisfied with Zápotocký, who has officially been declared ill for some weeks. The disclosures on the arrest of Bojko involve very important issues. It is considered that the next president must be a Slovak, and Široký, Bacílek and Julius Dúril are all candidates, while Dr. František Zupka is expected to succeed Gustav Kliment as head of the syndicalist organization URO (Central Labor Union Council).
7. The result of the investigation is expected to shake further Zápotocký's position, and the government would then fall into the hands of Slovaks at the very moment when it would become necessary to execute Husák and Novomeský. There is great anxiety in Prague.

- end -

25X1

SECRET